

## **ASSAY FOR YKL-40 AS A MARKER FOR DEGRADATION OF MAMMALIAN CONNECTIVE TISSUE MATRICES**

### **ABSTRACT**

[0161]        The invention is a method of identifying the presence of a disease state in a  
5        mammal which is associated with degradation of connective tissue in the mammal which  
      contains the protein known as YKL-40. The method is a competitive immunoassay for  
      YKL-40. It can be used, for example, to identify the presence of inflammatory or  
      degenerative joint disease and tumor metastasis (to the extent it can be correlated to serum  
      YKL-40 levels). Serum YKL-40 levels as detected and quantified by the inventive method  
10        are also suggestive of the prognosis for the length of survival in breast cancer patients  
      following recurrence and/or metastasis of their cancers.